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Governor's Cup Wine Competition Winners Announced

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB), an agency of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, hosted the 3rd annual Governor's Cup Wine Competition on April 27-28 at Metropolitan State University of Denver's Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center. Over 220 wines from 32 local wineries were judged by a panel of restaurateurs, sommeliers, chefs, writers and other wine experts from around the country.

"The judges repeatedly raved about the increased quality in the wines they reviewed over previous years. They showed tremendous excitement over all the Bordeaux red grapes produced in Colorado, including Merlot," said Doug Caskey, executive director of the CWIDB.

The 2013 Governor's Cup was awarded to Creekside Cellars' 2010 Cabernet Franc. Cabernet Franc is a red grape variety that originates from both the Bordeaux region and the Loire Valley of France. Cabernet Franc is actually the genetic parent of the more famous Cabernet Sauvignon.

"Cabernet Franc often excels in Colorado's short growing season as a varietal wine when it is almost exclusively used for blending in Bordeaux and California," said Caskey. "It doesn't surprise me that two of the four Double Gold medal winners being made from Cabernet Franc."

Incidentally, the 2012 Governor's Cup winner was The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey's 2009 Cabernet Franc.

Creekside Cellars is located in the heart of historic Evergreen, CO. Bill and Anita Donahue founded Creekside in 1996 and opened to the public in 2000. In 2002, they planted their own vineyard in Palisade, CO from which they source a majority of their grapes. Creekside Cellars doubles as an Italian café with an outdoor deck overhanging the banks of Bear Creek. "I'm pleasantly surprised that our Cabernet Franc won Best of Show," Creekside winemaker Michelle Cleveland added. "As you can see from our label, I think Cabernet Franc is Colorado's Cabernet!"

A total of 170 medals, including four Double Gold, seven Gold, 59 Silver and 100 Bronze medals, were awarded to entries after the two-day competition. All entries were tasted blind – that is judges only knew the type of wine and the vintage and not the producer or the price. Dr. Stephen Menke, Colorado State University professor and State Enologist, directed the competition. 17 judges were recruited locally and from across the country. A list of the judges, along with their bios, can be found at <http://www.coloradowine.com/2013GovCup>.

Many of the medal-winning wines will be poured at the Governor's Cup Awards Presentation and Reception on Friday, June 7, 4:30-7:00 pm at the Hospitality and Learning Center for MSU Denver. For tickets, please visit <http://coloradogovernorscup.eventbrite.com>. Tickets are \$55 each or \$100 for two, with a 20 percent Mother's Day discount available through May 17. Use the promo code MOTHERSDAY.

Governor John Hickenlooper proclaimed June 2-8, 2013 Colorado Wine Week. The week-long celebration of local wine will culminate with the Colorado Urban Winefest, June 8 at Infinity Park. More than three dozen wineries will pour samples and sell bottles of their artisanal wines, ciders, and meads at Infinity Park in Glendale. Visit <http://www.coloradowineweek.com> for more information.

The 2013 Governor's Cup category winners are:

Best Bordeaux variety or blend, Best Red Wine, and Best of Show

Creekside Cellars - 2010 Cabernet Franc, Grand Valley AVA

Best Syrah or Rhône Blend

The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey - 2010 Syrah, Colorado

Best Aromatic Germanic Variety and Best White Wine

Talon Winery - 2012 Gewürztraminer, Grand Valley AVA

Best Chardonnay

Bookcliff Vineyards - 2012 Unoaked Chardonnay, Colorado

Best Rosé

Canyon Wind Cellars - 2012 47-Ten Rosé, Grand Valley AVA

Best Dessert Wine

Two Rivers Winery - 2008 Port, Mesa County

Best Fruit Wine

St. Kathryn Cellars - Cherry Wine, Colorado

Best Mead

Meadery of the Rockies - Camelot

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About the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board: The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) is an agency of the Colorado Department of Agriculture dedicated to promoting and furthering the development of Colorado's grape growers and vintners. The CWIDB supports the efforts of more than 100 wineries throughout the state, producing an increasing array of premium-quality wines. For additional information, visit www.coloradowine.com or contact CWIDB executive director Doug Caskey at 720-304-3406 or dcaskey@coloradowine.com.